



MARINE SPECIAL OPERATIONS SCHOOL

COMMANDING OFFICER'S SAFETY POLICY

BOTTOM LINE: OUR PERSONNEL ARE OUR MOST PRECIOUS ASSET.

As our Nation gradually shifts our military away from an active combat abroad, there will be an increasing shift of the workload from general purpose forces onto Special Operations Forces. The Marine Special Operations Command (MARSOC) is already experiencing an greater demand for Marine Special Operations, and the role played by the Marine Special Operations School (MSOS) in training and educating these Marine Special Operations Forces is likely to see a disproportionate increase as well.

There is no other military community whose livelihood is as people-based as that of Special Operations. The first SOF truth, as originally penned by Col John Collins (USA, Ret.), remains as true today as when he wrote it three decades ago:

- 1. Humans are more important than hardware.**
- 2. Quality is better than quantity.**
- 3. Special Operations Forces cannot be mass produced.**
- 4. Competent Special Operations Forces cannot be created after emergencies occur.**
- 5. Most special operations require non-SOF assistance.**

Training and educating Marine Special Operations for the challenges ahead will be paramount to the success of both MSOS and MARSOC; ensuring that we conduct this training **SAFELY** is the only way to guarantee that they will be prepared when they are needed.

Most of the dynamic training conducted by MSOS is complex and has an unusually high degree of risk; however, this risk can be mitigated through adherence to standard operating procedures and a continual awareness of the environment in which we are operating. There is no room for shortcuts when it comes to the livelihood of our personnel. It is the direct responsibility of every member of MSOS to act as a safety officer and of every leader in MSOS to ensure the well-being, safety and welfare of personnel during our training evolutions. Additionally, we have a duty to correct unsafe procedures, practices, and conditions wherever they exist. We will utilize the Operational Risk Management process to ensure the preservation of our force.

MSOS conducts some of the most dynamic and exhilarating training offered anywhere; it is imperative that we do so safely and keep the trust granted us as stewards of our most precious resource, our personnel.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. C. Schuehle', with a stylized, flowing script.

N. C. SCHUEHLE